U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Office of the Surgeon General

Medical Reserve Corps

USA
Freedom Corps
peace corps
Corporation for
NATIONAL &
COMMUNITY
SERVICE
citizen corps
FIRE
CERT
V·I·P·S
medical
reserve
corps

MRC Concept

- A system to pre-identify volunteers (mostly medical and public health professionals) **at the community level**
- Credential, train and prepare them in advance of an emergency
- Use an all-hazards approach to strengthen public health infrastructure and improve preparedness

Mission

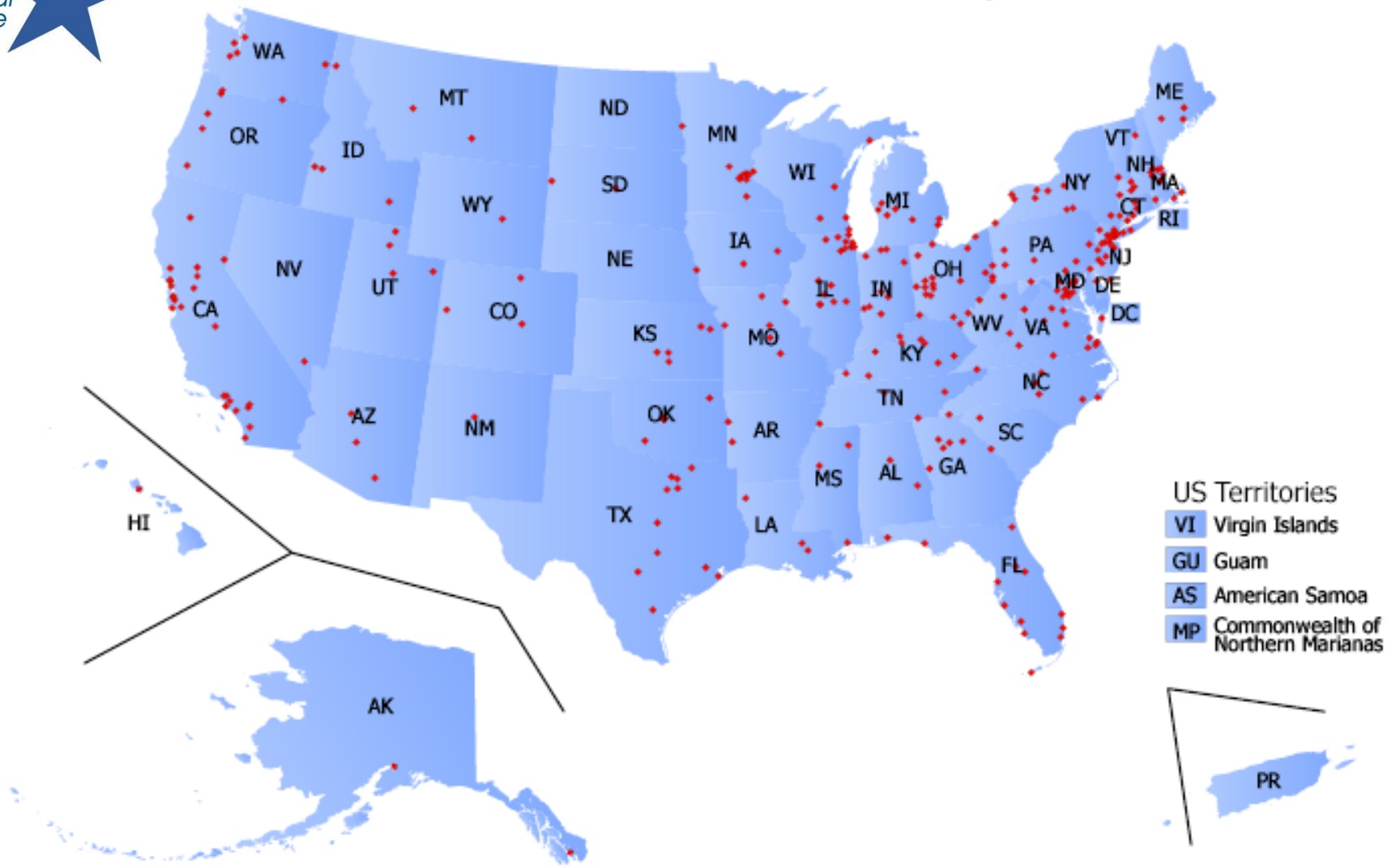
To serve citizens and communities throughout the United States by establishing local teams of medical, public health and other volunteers to strengthen the public health infrastructure and improve
emergency preparedness

MRC Presence

- 309 MRC units in 49 states, the District of Columbia, U.S. Virgin Islands and Guam
- Over 52,000 volunteers (Pre-Katrina)

  - Physicians
  - Physician Assistants
  - Nurse Practitioners
  - Registered Nurses
  - Dentists
  - Veterinarians
  - Pharmacists
  - Mental Health Professionals
  - EMTs/Paramedics
  - Epidemiologists
  - Health Educators
  - Other - Medical
  - Other - Public Health
  - Other - Non-medical/public health

Medical Reserve Corps



For more information: see www.medicalreservecorps.gov

Hosting and Partner Organizations

- Departments of Public Health
- Emergency Management Offices
- Citizen Corps Councils
- Police and Fire Departments
- Volunteer Centers
- Faith Based Organizations
- Regional Planning Groups
- Medical Societies
- Non-Profit Community Organizations
- Boards of Health
- Medical Centers and Hospitals
- Medical Societies
- Emergency Management Offices
- Municipal Governments
- Emergency Medical Services
- Nursing and Medical Schools
- American Red Cross
- Centers for Disease Control
- Medical Examiners Offices
- Local and State Emergency Management Agencies
- Emergency Planning Committees
- Community-Based Disaster Groups
- Health Care Systems
- Retired and Senior Volunteer Programs
- Metropolitan Medical Response Systems
- Military Organizations & National Guard
- Public Schools
- Neighborhood Associations
- Regional Commissions
- Law Offices
- Corporations

Benefits

- Provides supplemental personnel to support existing public health and emergency response systems
- Provides mechanisms for information sharing and coordination among the many community partners
- Enhances community preparedness through citizen involvement

Benefits (Cont.)

- Enables communities to meet specific health needs
- Allows communities more autonomy in responding to emergencies with less reliance on state or national resources

Surgeon General Priorities

- Overarching theme: Improve Health Literacy
- Increase Prevention Efforts
- Eliminate Health Disparities
- Enhance Public Health Preparedness

Local MRC Activities

- Immunization Campaigns
- Smoking Cessation Programs
- Cancer Screenings
- Emergency Flu Clinics
- Diabetes Detection Initiatives
- Health Fairs and Health Promotion Campaigns
- SNS Assistance
- Preparedness Drills & Exercises
- Training

Local MRC Activities
Katrina Relief

- Providing backfill staff for hospitals, clinics, and health departments so that employees can be deployed
- Providing disaster behavioral health services to community
- Joining Citizen Corps efforts to encourage citizens to get trained, get educated and get prepared
- Providing immunizations and health check-up services for responders prior to their deployment
- Taking care of the families of those who have been deployed by providing meals, child care or just well-checks via phone calls
- Staffing local shelters/community centers and offering health screenings and services to evacuees who have been relocated across the country as a result of this tragic event
- Conducting fund-raising efforts for "Katrina Relief"

National MRC Activities
Katrina Relief

MRC Support for American Red Cross Response

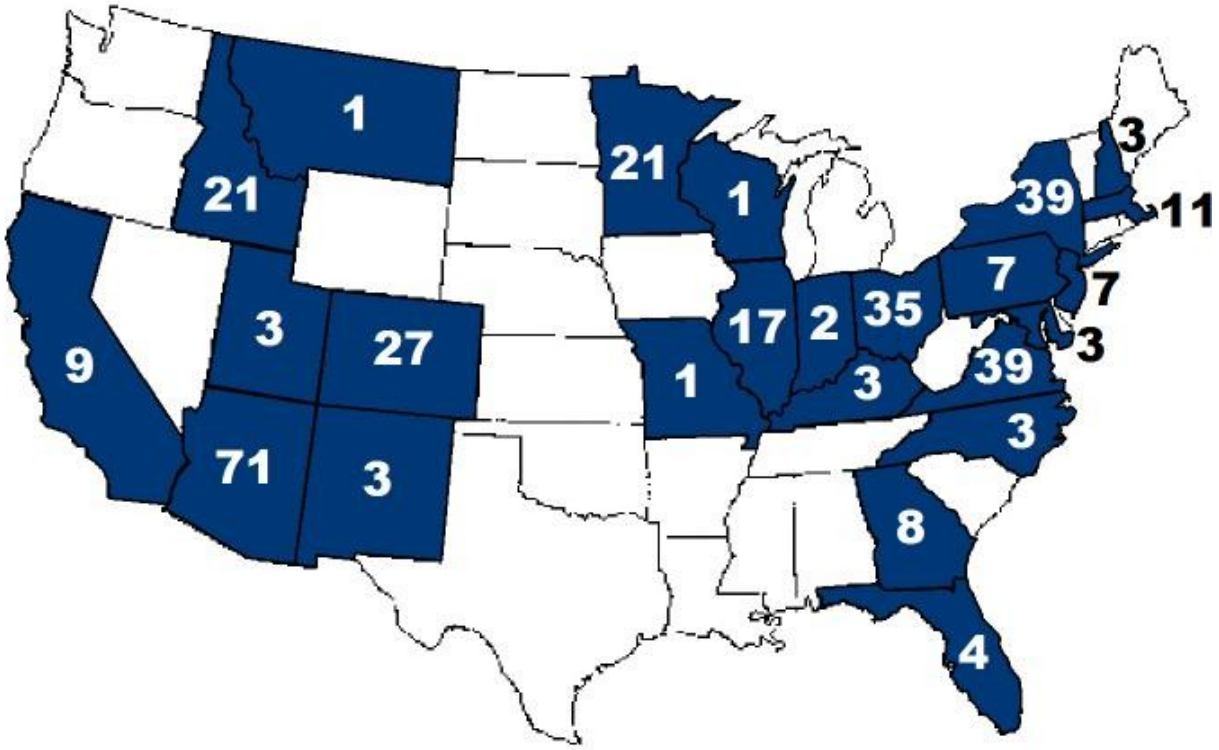
- Providing Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) volunteer support for American Red Cross (ARC) operations including shelters in the disaster areas and communities receiving evacuees.

MRC Support for HHS Mission

- Local MRC members are mobilizing to help at federal medical stations in the disaster areas.

MRC/Red Cross Mission

Katrina Relief



As of Sept. 10, 2005

339 MRC Members

24 States

This does not include the thousands of MRC members who are responding in their home communities

Challenges

Immediate Challenges

- Addressing the needs and managing the rapid influx of MRC volunteers and units in the wake of Katrina
- Utilizing MRC volunteers on national missions while maintaining the original local focus of the program
- Collecting and monitoring information from MRC members about Katrina response efforts both locally and in disaster areas

Long-Term Challenges

- Legal Protections
- Sustainability
- Training
- Credentialing

How to Get Involved

www.medicalreservecorps.gov

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Medical Reserve Corps

Resource Site

medical reserve corps

Sponsored by: The Office of the Surgeon General

Register to use MRC Member Resources

MRC Message Boards

MRC Message Boards

Member Login:

Password:

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MRC Units

The MRC Unit Map (PDF 3MB) shows locations of registered MRC Units.

Contact information for registered MRC Units is linked from the Unit's home state in the list below. Click on MRC name to see more information about the MRC Unit.

If you are unable to find an MRC Unit in your preferred location, contact a nearby Citizen Corps Council. Citizen Corps Councils are often involved in the early formation of local MRC Units and can usually provide information on recent activities in their areas. Other sources of information include the State MRC Coordinators and the Regional MRC Coordinators.

States with Registered MRC Units

- Alabama
- Alaska
- Arizona
- California
- Colorado
- Connecticut
- Delaware
- District of Columbia
- Florida
- Georgia
- Hawaii
- Idaho
- Illinois
- Indiana
- Iowa
- Kansas
- Kentucky
- Louisiana
- Maine
- Maryland
- Massachusetts
- Michigan
- Minnesota
- Mississippi
- Missouri
- Montana
- Nebraska
- Nevada
- New Hampshire
- New Jersey
- New Mexico
- New York
- North Carolina
- Ohio
- Oklahoma
- Oregon
- Pennsylvania
- Rhode Island
- South Carolina
- South Dakota
- Tennessee
- Texas
- Utah
- Vermont
- Virgin Islands
- Virginia
- Washington
- West Virginia
- Wisconsin
- Wyoming

Alabama

Black Belt MRC - Macon and Bullock County, AL
Bldg 9 2400 Hospital Road
Tuskegee, AL 36083
Mervin Ishmael Griffin
205-934-9512
migriffin@uabmc.edu

PROJECT H.E.L.P. USA - Birmingham, AL
Bruno-Smithfield Community Health Center 421 8TH AVENUE NORTH
Birmingham, AL 35204
Dr.Thomas Ellison
205.251.7587
HEARTSAVR@HOTMAIL.COM

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Find MRC Units
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Resources
Questions & Answers
Surgeon General Priorities
About the MRC

Register to use MRC Member Resources

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How to Start an MRC

Getting Started

Since every community is different, we expect every community to approach the task of establishing its MRC unit differently too. We have prepared general guidelines covering many key issues to assist you in your planning. You can download a copy of Getting Started: A Guide for Local Leaders (PDF 3.09MB). We also offer a Technical Assistance Series covering certain topics in greater depth:

- Organizing an MRC Unit: Operational Components and the Coordinator's Role
- Coordinating With Your Local Response Partners
- Developing Volunteer Relationships and Capabilities
- Establishing and Maintaining Your MRC Unit's Organization

Registering Your MRC Unit

Registering your MRC unit will allow you to request technical assistance from the National Program Office, apply for use of the official MRC logo, and be included in National MRC Conferences. Your registered unit will also be officially recognized as part of the White House's USA Freedom Corps initiative and the Department of Homeland Security's Citizen Corps. In return, we will expect you to be an active member of the MRC "community" by participating and sharing information on the MRC message board or at MRC meetings. Regular updates of your unit profile, volunteer numbers and recent activities are also requested.

Registering is Easy. Just complete and submit the registration form. Your application will be reviewed by the MRC program office staff, in consultation with state and regional coordinators. You will be contacted to clarify, and perhaps expand upon the information you provided. If your registration request is approved you will be added to our online directory. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact us.

Please Note: If your MRC Unit is already found on the list of registered MRC Units, you do not need to register again.

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For More Information:

Tel. (301) 443-4951
MRCcontact@osophs.dhhs.gov
www.medicalreservecorps.gov

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